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TITLE : ANTIOXIDANT

ABSTRACT : PURPOSE: To obtain a substance which is useful as the material of cosmetics, is safe for the human skin, has an antioxidant action, and is effective in preventing wrinkles on the human skin by hydrolyzing a mucus of a shellfish, esp. a pearl oyster.

CONSTITUTION: A mucus is obtd. by removing the shell of a shellfish and pressing or centrifuging the residue. The mucus is desalted and concentrated by a treatment such as precipitation by heating or with ethanol and then is hydrolyzed with an acid, an alkali, or a protease (e.g. trypsin or papain). Using the enzyme is suitable since its specificity enables the production of a desired peptide while reducing the amts. of by-products. Desalting the resulting hydrolyzate with 40-80% ethanol is pref. since the coloration of the hydrolyzate is reduced-A cultured pearl oyster is pref. as the shellfish from the viewpoint of waste treatment.

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